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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0306

INFO RUEHWH/WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS IMMEDIATE

RUEAHND/COMJTF-B SOTO CANO HO IMMEDIATE

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUMIAAA/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

RUEAHND/CDRJTFB SOTO CANO HO IMMEDIATE

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RULGPSU/COMSOC SOUTH IMMEDIATE

RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

RUEIDN/DNI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUMIAAA/USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 000688

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/10/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [CASC](#) [MARR](#) [KDEM](#) [PHUM](#) [ASEC](#) [HO](#)

SUBJECT: TFH01: HONDURAS COUP SITREP #33 07/31/2009 AS OF
11:00 LOCAL (13:00 EDT)

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 680 AND OTHERS

Classified By: Ambassador Hugo Llorens, reasons 1.4 (b and d)

DEMONSTRATIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITY

¶1. (C) On July 30, Honduran National Police (HNP) arrested 100 people after pro-Zelaya demonstrators clashed with police charged with disbanding the protest. One demonstrator was shot in the head and seriously wounded. Police contacts assert that the police and military were only armed with nonlethal weapons. A prominent pro-Zelaya activist and an independent candidate for President, Carlos H. Reyes, was among the detained and is reported to have been badly beaten by police. He was released. HNP Operations Center has confirmed to the Embassy that it is now HNP policy to break up roadblocks. Post will provide more information septel.

¶2. (SBU) On July 30, while breaking up a separate protest in Comayaguela, a protester allegedly stole a police officer's gun and then used it to shoot and wound a second officer. Later that evening in an event unrelated to the political crisis, an off duty policeman was killed in an altercation with a security guard over a petty crime.

¶3. (SBU) Also on the afternoon of July 30, a group of pro-Zelaya demonstrators surrounded a school bus with approximately 40 children on board, threatening the driver, shouting insults at the children and painting graffiti on the bus. The bus was eventually allowed to continue on its way with no one injured. The bus was for the Vida Abundante School, which is associated with one of the most prominent Evangelical ministries in town, and whose leader has been a vocal supporter of the de facto regime.

¶4. (SBU) As of 10:30 local (12:30 EDT) July 31, approximately 1,200 pro-Zelaya demonstrators were peacefully marching on Boulevard Miraflores blocking traffic in the direction of the National Congress. As of 11:30 local (13:30 EDT), the group grew to approximately 4,000 and was demonstrating in front of the Clarion Hotel. HNP expects another day of large protests based on reports that the First Lady may be back in Tegucigalpa.

¶15. (U) A large fire, unrelated to the political crisis, swept through one of Tegucigalpa's largest marketplaces destroying 218 stalls Thursday, July 30. Authorities believe the source was an electrical short circuit.

¶16. (SBU) The 24 hour curfew in the zone surrounding the Las Manos border crossing in the El Paraiso Department and parts of the Choluteca Department remains in place. Apart from the Bay Islands, where the curfew was rescinded Sunday, the curfew for the rest of the country today, July 29, is expected to be from 01:00-04:30 local (03:00-06:30 EDT). The Embassy Warden Message urges AmCits to consult television and radio announcements each night to determine the correct curfew hours.

Infrastructure and Communications

¶17. (SBU) Toncontin International Airport in Tegucigalpa (TGU) remains open. After cancelling their seasonal second daily flights, American and Continental will be operating with one daily flight and Delta is maintaining its normal flight schedule. San Pedro Sula airport remains open with all flights operating as normal.

¶18. (U) Apart from the police and military control of the Las Manos border crossing (reftel), all other borders remain open and operating as normal.

¶19. (U) There are no reports of abnormal public utility outages in the country.

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Consular and Embassy Operations

¶10. (U) The Embassy is open for normal business on Friday, July 31. Barring any changes in the security situation, the Consular Section is open for regular consular services until further notice.

¶11. (U) The Consular Section continues to receive sporadic inquiries from AmCits regarding the political situation. Post circulated a Warden Message Friday afternoon, July 24. The Consular Section continues to regularly update ACS information on the Embassy website.

¶12. (SBU) The next EAC meeting is scheduled for this afternoon, July 31 at 14:00 local (16:00 EDT).
LLORENS